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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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EXAMINER

JACOBS, LASHONDA T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2157

DATE MAILED: 06/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/800,100

Applicant(s)

GOLD ET AL.

Examiner

LaShonda T. Jacobs

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 March 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 March 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference sign(s) not mentioned in the description: note reference numerals 209, 210 and 211 of Fig. 2, reference numeral 102 of Fig. 3, reference numeral 500 of Fig. 5, reference numeral 600 of Fig. 6, reference numeral 805 of Fig. 8, reference numeral 1100 of Fig. 11 and reference numerals 1502 and 1509 of Fig. 15. A proposed drawing correction, corrected drawings, or amendment to the specification to add the reference sign(s) in the description, are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: because the claim language of the last element is unclear "a equivalent functionality to a user as each other one of said computer entities of said plurality. Appropriate correction is required.

3. Claim 6 is objected to because of the following informalities: the word authorised is misspelled. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. Claim 1 recites the limitation "said plurality" in 26. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Greaves et al (hereinafter, "Greaves", 6,195,687).

As per claim 20, Greaves discloses a set of components for connecting a group of headless computer entities into a group of computer entities having a common set of configuration settings, said component set comprising:

- a master configuration component for converting a first headless computer into a master computer entity to control a group of computer entities (col. 3, lines 15-22);
- a slave configuration component for controlling a second computer entity to act as a slave computer entity within said group (col. 3, lines 15-35);
- wherein said master configuration component comprises a set of converters for converting configuration settings received from a control application into a set of Application Procedure Instruction procedure calls (col. 3, lines 58-67 and col. 4, lines 1-14); and
- said slave configuration application comprises a set of converters for converting received Application Procedure Instructions into a set of configuration settings readable

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by a client application resident on said slave computer entity (col. 3, lines 58-67 and col. 4, lines 1-14).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 1-2, 4-6 and 9-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Greaves in view of Applicants' Admitted Prior Art (AAPA).

As per claim 1, Greaves discloses a method of configuring a plurality of computer entities into a group, in which each of said computer entity operates to provide its functionality to the group, each said computer entity comprising:

- a network connection for communicating with other said computer entities of the group (col. 2, lines 66-67 and col. 3, lines 1-7);

said method comprising the steps of:

- assigning one of said plurality of computer entities to be a master computer entity, from which at least one other said computer entity is configured by said master computer entity (col. 3, lines 15-35);
- assigning at least one said computer entity to be a slave computer entity, which applies to configuration settings set by said master computer entity (col. 3, lines 15-35 and col. 4, lines 1-4); and

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- setting at least one configuration setting to be a same value on each of said computer entities, such that each of said plurality of computer entities is capable of providing an equivalent functionality to a user as each other one of said computer entities of said plurality (col. 3, lines 58-67 and col. 4, lines 1-13).

However, Greaves does not explicitly disclose:

- at least one data processor; and
- a data storage device.

AAPA discloses:

- at least one data processor (page 1, lines 10-14); and
- a data storage device (page 1, lines 10-14).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Greaves by specifying that the master and slave computers include a data processor and data storage device in order to process and store information in response to the master and slave computers request.

As per claim 2, Greaves discloses:

- wherein each of said plurality of computer entities is loaded with an application (col. 4, lines 8-13); and
- said step of setting of plurality of configuration settings comprises setting a plurality of application settings to a common value across each of said plurality of computer entities (col. 3, lines 58-67 and col. 4, lines 1-13).

As per claim 4, Greaves discloses:

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- wherein a said master computer entity comprises a database storing a plurality of said configuration settings (col. 3, lines 15-31).

As per claim 5, Greaves discloses:

- wherein a said master computer entity stores a database containing a list of a plurality of said computer entities within a group (col. 3, lines 15-31).

As per claim 6, Greaves discloses wherein a said configuration setting is selected from the set:

- a schedule setting, a retention setting, an exclude setting, an authorized right setting, a limit setting, a quota setting, a data file definition setting and a log critical file data (col. 3, lines 58-67 and col. 4, lines 1-4).

As per claim 9, Greaves discloses a method of configuring a plurality of computer entities into a group, in which each of said computer entity operates to provide its functionality to the group, each said computer entity comprising:

- a network connection for communicating with other said computer entities of the group (col. 2, lines 66-67 and col. 3, lines 1-7);

said method comprising the steps of:

- assigning a said computer entity to be a master computer entity of a corresponding respective group (col. 3, lines 15-35);
- assigning at least one other said computer entity to be a slave computer entity within said group (col. 3, lines 15-35); and
- said master computer entity applying at least one configuration setting to a said corresponding respective slave computer entity in said same group, to set said slave

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computer entity is to provide an equivalent functionality to a user as said master computer entity (col. 3, lines 15-35 and col. 4, lines 1-4).

However, Greaves does not explicitly disclose:

- at least one data processor; and
- a data storage device.

AAPA discloses:

- at least one data processor (page 1, lines 10-14); and
- a data storage device (page 1, lines 10-14).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Greaves by specifying that the master and slave computers include a data processor and data storage device in order to process and store information in response to the master and slave computers request.

As per claim 10, Greaves discloses:

- wherein said master computer entity of said group operates as a slave computer entity for a further group (col. 3, lines 54-67 and col. 4, lines 1-13).

As per claim 11, Greaves discloses:

- wherein said slave computer entity of said group operates as a slave computer entity in a second group (col. 3, lines 54-67 and col. 4, lines 1-13).

As per claim 12, Greaves discloses:

- wherein each said computer entity comprises a headless computer entity (col. 3, lines 15-22).

As per claim 13, Greaves discloses the step of:

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- checking whether a said slave computer entity has a same security mode setting as said master computer entity (col. 3, lines 58-67, col. 4, lines 1-4 and lines 26-46).

As per claim 14, Greaves discloses the step of:

- checking whether a said slave computer entity has a same security mode setting as said master computer entity (col. 3, lines 58-67, col. 4, lines 1-4 and lines 26-46); and
- if said slave computer entity does not have a same security mode setting as said master computer entity, then rejecting assigning of said slave computer entity to be a slave computer entity within said group (col. 3, lines 58-67, col. 4, lines 1-4 and lines 26-46).

As per claim 15, Greaves discloses the step of:

- if a said slave computer entity is rejected as being assigned to be a slave computer entity within said group, then displaying an error message (col. 3, lines 58-67, col. 4, lines 1-4 and lines 26-46).

As per claim 16, Greaves discloses the step of:

- checking that a said slave computer entity is configured to be in same domain as said master computer entity (col. 4, lines 8-13).

As per claim 17, Greaves discloses the steps of:

- checking that a said slave computer entity is configured to be in same domain as said master computer entity (col. 4, lines 8-13); and
- if said slave computer entity is not configured to be in a same domain as said master computer entity, then rejecting said slave computer entity from said group (col. 4, lines 8-13 and lines 26-46).

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9. Claims 3 and 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Greaves in view of AAPA and in further view of Carney et al (hereinafter, "Carney", 6,658,498).

As per claim 3, Greaves in view of AAPA discloses the invention substantially as claimed.

However, Greaves in view of AAPA does not explicitly disclose:

- the step of entering at least one said setting data via a web interface.

Carney discloses a method, system program and data structures for reconfiguring output devices in a network devices in the network system including:

- the step of entering at least one said setting data via a web interface (col. 1, lines 58-67 and col. 2, lines 1-25).

Given the teaching of Carney, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Greaves in view of AAPA to include GUI windows within the master computer allowing the administrator of the master computer to add or change the settings of the slave computers in a timely and efficient manner.

As per claim 7, Greaves in view of AAPA discloses the invention substantially as claimed.

However, Greaves in view of AAPA does not explicitly disclose the steps of:

- viewing al list of computer entities at a management console; and
- adding a selected computer entity to an existing group of computer entities by manipulating icons contained in said view display.

Carney discloses a method, system program and data structures for reconfiguring output devices in a network devices in the network system including:

- viewing al list of computer entities at a management console (col. 1, lines 58-67 and col. 2, lines 1-25); and

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- adding a selected computer entity to an existing group of computer entities by manipulating icons contained in said view display (col. 1, lines 58-67 and col. 2, lines 1-25).

Given the teaching of Carney, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Greaves in view of AAPA to include GUI windows within the master computer allowing the administrator of the master computer to add and view a list of master and slave computers in a timely and efficient manner.

As per claim 8, Greaves in view of AAPA discloses the invention substantially as claimed.

However, Greaves in view of AAPA does not explicitly disclose the steps of:

- viewing a list of computer entities at a management console display view (col. 1, lines 58-67 and col. 2, lines 1-25); and
- removing a selected computer entity to an existing group of computer entities by manipulating one or more icons contained in said view display (col. 1, lines 58-67 and col. 2, lines 1-25).

Given the teaching of Carney, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Greaves in view of AAPA to include GUI windows within the master computer allowing the administrator of the master computer to remove and view a list of master and slave computers in a timely and efficient manner.

10. Claims 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Greaves in view of AAPA and in further view of Matsuda et al (hereinafter, "Matsuda", 2002/0133573).

As per claim 18, Greaves in view of AAPA discloses the invention substantially as claimed.

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However, Greaves in view AAPA does not explicitly disclose:

- wherein if said master computer entity is using DHCP configuration, then said master computer entity checking whether it can be use a UDP broadcast based IP provisioning to connect to a said slave computer entity by name.

Matsuda discloses a method and apparatus for initializing a device on a network including:

- wherein if said master computer entity is using DHCP configuration, then said master computer entity checking whether it can be use a UDP broadcast based IP provisioning to connect to a said slave computer entity by name (paragraphs 0011, 0042-0043, 0056, 0064 and 0066).

Given the teaching of Matsuda, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Greaves in view of AAPA by using DHCP configurations to configure or modify settings of the master and slave computers in which the administrator can assign common settings to the computers in a timely and efficient manner.

As per claim 19, Greaves in view of AAPA discloses the invention substantially as claimed.

However, Greaves in view of AAPA does not explicitly disclose:

- wherein if said slave computer entity is using DHCP configuration, then said slave computer entity checking that it can use a UDP broadcast based IP provisioning to connect to a said master computer entity by name.

Matsuda discloses a method and apparatus for initializing a device on a network including:

- wherein if said slave computer entity is using DHCP configuration, then said slave computer entity checking that it can use a UDP broadcast based IP provisioning to

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connect to a said master computer entity by name (paragraphs 0011, 0042-0043, 0056, 0064 and 0066).

Given the teaching of Matsuda, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Greaves in view of AAPA by using DHCP configurations to configure or modify settings of the master and slave computers in which the administrator can assign common settings to the computers in a timely and efficient manner.

Conclusion

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0200251 to Krum

U.S. Pat. No. 5,602,754 to Beatty et al

U.S. Pat. No. 5,615,127 to Beatty et al

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LaShonda T. Jacobs whose telephone number is 703-305-7494. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

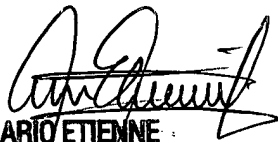
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on 703-308-7562. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LaShonda T. Jacobs
Examiner
Art Unit 2157

ltj
May 26, 2004


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TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100